

Montgomery County Commission on Health

FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Table of Contents

Letter from the Chair	3
Mission, Purpose and Meeting Information	4
Membership	5
Priorities & Correspondence FY16	6
Testimonies & Guest Speakers FY16	7
Liaisons, Committees and Work Groups	8



Commission on Health FY2016 Annual Report

Dear County Executive Leggett and County Council President Berliner:

The Commission on Health (COH) appreciates the opportunity to serve the residents of Montgomery County by providing advice on important public health issues and services. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, the COH formed work groups on health literacy, public health accreditation, and communicable disease control. A cross-cutting goal for our workgroups has been how to provide high quality services to the County most vulnerable residents within the constraints of a tightening budget. The COH shares this goal with the other Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) boards, committees, and commissions and the Minority Health Initiatives. Our COH members have been actively working with other boards, committees, and commissions to create a unified voice supporting recommendations to improve the health and welfare of the County. Several COH members serve as formal liaisons to other County boards and commissions.

During FY16, the COH was pleased with the outcomes of our recommendations, particularly involving the continued support for safety net programs. We applaud the County's continued support of Montgomery Cares. County-level programs such as Montgomery Cares continue to serve a vital role even with the Affordable Care Act helping to cover many previously uninsured County residents. In addition, maintaining funding for the County dental clinics has been one of our priorities for the past two years.

It has been an honor to serve as the chair of the COH during FY16. The Commission is filled with 19 dedicated and very accomplished professionals who willingly volunteer their time and knowledge to leave a lasting positive effect on DHHS. The Commission also benefits from the expertise of ex-officio DHHS members, support from DHHS staff and liaisons from other commissions. The Commission also is fortunate to have Mitchell Berger serve as our vice-chair. Our efforts would not have been possible without his hard work and tenacity.

The COH respectfully submits the attached FY16 Annual Report and looks forward to continued work and collaboration to improve public health and advise the Council and County Executive.

Sincerely,

Daniel Russ, Ph.D.
Chair, FY2016 Commission on Health

Mission and Purpose

The primary mission of the Montgomery County Commission on Health (COH) is to advise the County Executive and the County Council on public health issues, programs, services and the allocation of funds devoted to public health needs and to monitor and assess the priorities of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) in its efforts to address the health needs of residents in this County. The purpose of this report is to comply with the annual requirement that the COH provide the County Executive and the County Council with an update on the activities of the COH from July 2015 through June 2016.

**CHAPTER 24-24 OF
THE MONTGOMERY
COUNTY CODE
PROVIDES
AUTHORITY FOR THE
COMMISSION ON
HEALTH. THE
COMMISSION ON
HEALTH (COH) WAS
ESTABLISHED ON
JULY 1, 1988.**

Structure

The Commission is comprised of 19 voting members with representation from consumers and providers of health services in the County. The majority of the members must be from sectors of the County's health care and public health consumer population. As dictated by County Code, the COH also has a representative from the County Medical Society.

In FY 2016, there were 13 consumers, and 6 providers including the Medical Society representative. The ex-officio (non-voting) members of the COH include: the County Health Officer; the Montgomery County Public Schools liaison; and the County Council liaison. The COH continues to represent a diverse cross-section of Montgomery County residents. Membership consisted of 6 men and 12 women who were racially and ethnically diverse and vary in age, geography and experience in health policy, public health, and the health care system.

The COH has an elected Chair and Vice Chair whose terms are one year. During FY16 Daniel Russ was the Chair of the Commission and Mitchell Berger was the Vice Chair. The entire COH met monthly with the exception of August 2015. The Chair and the Vice Chair create the agenda for the monthly meetings.

Meetings

The Commission on Health meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the large, first floor conference room at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 except in August. All meetings are open to the general public.

At a minimum, every member of the Commission is expected to either serve on one workgroup and, if requested, as a liaison to other health-related County boards, commissions, committees or minority health initiatives.

With its broad perspective of public health, the COH recognizes the value of collaboration and communication with other health-related boards, commissions and committees. Many commissioners have an area of specialization or interest in a particular area or constituency of public health and are therefore encouraged to serve as liaisons with other relevant health-related boards, commissions and committees. Integral to this area of special interest is the constraint that all actions are in voice of the entire COH and not self-serving in any manner. Finally, members of the COH also served on committees that allowed the COH to conduct its business such as the membership, nominating and retreat planning committees. These committees require significant time and are in addition to the monthly scheduled meetings.

FY16 Membership

CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES

Mitchell Berger, MPH, J.D., (Vice Chair)

Ronald Bialek, MPP

Brenda Brooks, MA

Ilana Cohen, J.D.

Stacey Burton Dey-Foy, J.D., LLM

Graciela Jaschek, Ph.D., MPH

Pierre-Marie Longkeng, MHSA

Rose Marie Martinez, Sc.D.

Susan Milstein, Ph.D.

Daniel Russ Ph.D., (Chair)

Tonya Saffer, MPH

Wayne L. Swann, SPHR, FACHE

Bridget Ware, MCP

PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVES

Maya Das, MD, JD

Michelle Hawkins, DNP. MSN, MBA

Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Phar.D.

Alan Kaplan, M.D.

Fabienne Santel, MD, MPH

Sheela Modin, M.D. (Montgomery County Medical Society Representative)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst, Montgomery County Council

Ulder J. Tillman, M.D., MPH, Montgomery County Health Officer

LIAISON FROM THE SCHOOL HEALTH COUNCIL

Marla Caplon, R.D., L.D., Director, Division of Food and Nutrition Services, MCPS

STAFF

Robyn Simmons, MSA, Public Health Services, MCDDHS

Helen Lettlow, DrPH, Senior Administrator, Public Health Services, MCDHHS

Commission on Health Priorities 2015-2016

The Commission on Health set the following fiscal year 2016 areas of focus during the October 15, 2015 annual retreat held at Ingleside at King Farm.

- Health Literacy - Goal: Research Health Literacy body of literature to identify a focus area for recommendations on improving health literacy among Consumers, Providers, Facilities, Policy-makers in the County.
- Communicable Disease Programs - Goal: Understand, explain & address gaps in service (HIV & TB).
- Public Health Services accreditation preparations - Goal: Provide support to the County Council in making the business case for accreditation and assist in identifying resources. Identify and address the gaps in the business case by advocating the long term benefits to the community.



got public health?

Commission Correspondence 2015-2016

The Commission on Health sent the following letters during Fiscal Year 2016:

- Letter to the County Council regarding the Budget Savings Plan: July 21, 2015
- Letter to the County Council in support of the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board's request for additional funding for FY17 health care for the uninsured programs to help improve quality of care and increase access to needed services such as behavioral health, specialty care, oral health and pharmaceuticals.
- Letter to the County Council in support of the African American Health Program, Asian American Health Initiative, and the Latino Health Initiative's request for additional funding in the County's 2017 budget.

**"IMPROVING
QUALITY,
DEMONSTRATING
EFFECTIVENESS
AND ENSURING
ACCOUNTABILITY
ARE PARAMOUNT
TO OPTIMIZING
PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICES"**

Commission on Health Testimonies

The Commission on Health (COH) testified at the following forums:

- County Council HHS Committee Work Session for HHS Boards, Committees and Commissions Breakfast—COH statement on its priorities was presented by Chair, Daniel Russ on October 15, 2015.
- County Council seated as the Board of Health — COH statement on its priorities was presented by Commissioner Pierre-Marie Longkeng on November 3, 2015.
- County Executive’s Annual Meeting with HHS Boards, Committees and Commissions—COH statement was presented by Vice-Chair Mitchell Berger on March 29, 2016 .

Commission Guest Speakers FY16

The Commission on Health hosted several guest speakers during COH meetings:

- September 17, 2015 HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Cities & Towns Campaign: Presentation by Marisa Jones, Institute for Public Health Innovation.
- October 15, 2015 - Health Literacy and Oral Health: Presentation by Alice Horowitz, Ph.D., School of Public Health, University of Maryland (Annual Retreat).
- October 15, 2015 - DHHS Communicable Disease Programs: Presentation by Cindy Edwards, RN, MS, Senior Administrator, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology, Dale Schacherer, MSW, LCSW-C, Program Manager STD/HIV Prevention & Treatment Program, Kimberly Townsend, MPA, BSN, RN, Nurse Administrator, Tuberculosis Control and Refugee Health Program.
- January 21, 2016 – Public Health Accreditation: Presentation by Jessica Kronstadt, MPP, Director of Research and Evaluation, Public Health Accreditation Board.
- February 18, 2016 — Men’s Health: Presentation by Commissioner Susan Milstein, Ph.D. and guest speaker Brandon Leonard, MA, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Men’s Health Network.
- April 21, 2016 — Health Literacy: Presentation by Danielle Verbeist, Executive Director, Literacy Council of Montgomery County.

**“BOTH MEDICARE
AND MEDICAID DO
NOT COVER
PREVENTIVE DENTAL
SERVICES FOR
ADULTS, LEAVING
LOW INCOME
ADULTS WITHOUT
SUFFICIENT ACCESS
TO CARE”**

Commission on Health Liaisons

Liaisons

Michelle Hawkins – African American Health Program Executive Committee

Rose Marie Martinez, Latino Health Initiative Steering Committee

Alan S. Kaplan – Commission on Aging

Daniel Russ – School Health Council

Ron Bialek – Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee

Mitchell Berger – Board of Social Services

Wayne Swann—Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

Brenda Brooks – Commission on Children and Youth

Sheela Modin—Montgomery County Medical Society



Commission on Health FY15 Committees

Retreat Planning Committee

Alan Kaplan

Daniel Russ

Mitchell Berger

Michelle Hawkins

Membership Committee

Alan Kaplan

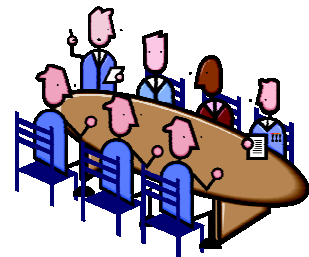
Susan Milstein

Daniel Russ

Nominating Committee

Wayne Swann

Graciela Jaschek



Commission on FY16 Health Work Groups

Accreditation

- Ron Bialek (chair), Wayne Swann (vice chair), Stacey Burton Dey-Foy, Mitchell Berger, Graciela Jaschek, Brenda Brooks

Disease Control

- Bridget Ware (chair), Illana Cohen (vice chair), Maya Das, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Fabienne Santel

Health Literacy

- Tonya Saffer (chair), Michelle Hawkins (vice chair), Rose Marie Martinez, Sheila Modin, Susan Milstein, Alan Kaplan, Ulder Tillman

Montgomery County Commission on Health

Commission on Health
401 Hungerford Drive
2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

HTTP://
WWW.MONTGOMERYCOUNTY
MD.GOV/HHS-PROGRAM/
PHS/COMMONHEALTH/
COHINDEX.HTML



Commission on Health



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Uma S. Ahluwalia
Director

The Commission on
Health was established on
July 1, 1988.
See Chapter 24-23 of the
Montgomery County Code
for a description of the
mission of the
Commission on Health.

The County Executive and
County Council encourage peo-
ple who live or work in Mont-
gomery County to become ac-
tively involved in matters af-
fecting the quality of life in
Montgomery County. Appoint-
ments are made to over 75
Boards, Committees, and Com-
missions by the County Execu-
tive, with confirmation by the
County Council.

[http://
www.montgomerycountymd.go
v/boards/index.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/index.html)